

# SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP 202 PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 28 2023– 7:00 P.M.

## Hybrid Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Peter Brussock, Vice-Chair, Nancy Minich, Robert Chase Palmer, Kay Reiss, Joanne Reszka, Rickie Yudin, Robin Seiz, Barbara Zietchick, Erika Canterbury, Administrator. Absent: Kevin Morrissey Supervisor Liaison, Hanna Howe, Supervisor Liaison, Nancy Stock-Allen, Chair, and Per von Zelowitz.

Zoom recording was turned on.

#### I. The meeting was called to order.

#### II. Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2023

- Ms. Zietchick suggested the May 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes should mention that Ms. Stock-Allen wanted to present the approved 202 Property Committee Vision, Mission, Principles and a committee progress report at the July 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors Meeting. This was a change from the original milestone plan to present in June.
- Upon a motion by Ms. Reszka, seconded by Mr. Yudin, the Minutes of the May 24, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved with Ms. Zietchick's proposed changes.

#### III. New Business

##### A. Subcommittee 1: Revised Vision, Mission, and Principles for 202 Property – Followed by Committee Discussion and Possible Vote.

1. Ms. Seiz asked the committee if there was any further discussion regarding the Revised Vision, Mission, and Principles for the 202 Property set before the committee. All members were in agreement with the revisions, felt no further discussion was necessary, and were satisfied to put the document to a vote.
2. Upon a motion by Ms. Minich, seconded by Mr. Palmer, the Revised Vision, Mission, Principles for the 202 Property were unanimously approved and a copy of which is attached.

#### IV. Presentation

##### A. Peter Brussock– Sustainability

Mr. Brussock announced this presentation would be moved to a later date so he can share his learnings from his upcoming workshop/symposium in the first week of August on sustainable practices for parks and recreation.

\*In lieu of a presentation, Mr. Brussock will supply a link with a compilation of worthwhile documents on sustainability that committee members can read. Erika Canterbury will distribute the link to committee members.

##### B. Joanne Reszka – Passive Parks

The presentation's purpose was to share an overview of three local parks: Karl Stirner Arts Trail, Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, and Dixon Meadow Preserve, along with ideas gathered from the internet. All contained features and activities for the committee to consider as possible options for the 202 Property (copy of which is attached). Questions and a discussion session followed.

1. Highlights Included: Examples of: mixing art with nature, creative and interesting signage of varying kinds, ways to encourage community engagement on the property, a boardwalk feature as an element in park that focuses on ecological preservation, bringing in natural elements for activity and engagement, interesting seating and resting

spots, multiuse areas, outdoor games to engage multi-generational visitors from the community.

2. Additional discussion Highlights:

- a. Mr. Yudin asked the committee if anyone had visited the property since the heavy rains to see what the conditions of the property are at this time? No members had made a site visit.
- b. Mr. Brussock suggested that the idea of art installations got him thinking about temporary items to keep the property fresh and Ms. Seiz agreed that changing features could be an option to keep the small space new and inviting to visitors. Mr. Brussock is thinking there should be some active elements in the 202 space. These active elements will need a strong case as they are generally costlier to maintain over time.
- c. Ms. Zeitchick was intrigued by the idea of offering multi-generational activities in the 202 space.
- d. Mr. Yudin made a case for an active space that directly interacts with nature as he stated this type of space is not available in Solebury or the surrounding areas. He also suggested that there are limited safe areas for children to ride their bicycles in Solebury Township and this need should be considered as well.
- e. Ms. Seiz also suggested that the active interaction with nature should be considered as there are limited options in the area for kids of all ages to interact with a creek system and this could be a possibility at the 202 property.
- f. Mr. Brussock extended this thought and added that active interaction paired with signage identifying unique items and features on the property would indeed garner attention from all ages and encourages multi-generational engagement.
- g. Additional discussion surrounded around: The need for a Base map so the committee can make informed decisions regarding the 202 Property as well as specifics of Phase 1 Audit and information contained in audit. This will be discussed potentially at BOS meeting in July.

**V. Upcoming Meetings – Tentative agenda**

A. July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

- a. Robert Chase Palmer – Community Gardens
- b. Per Von Zelowitz– Presentation

B. Nancy Stock-Allen would like to present approved 202 Property Committee: Vision, Mission, and Principals along with update of committee progress to BOS at July 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**VI. Public Comment**

- John DeAndrea, resident, appreciated Ms. Reszka’s presentation and suggested that the committee look at some of the other smaller parks down 202 where they have built trails. He suggested that the idea of multi-use got him thinking about the Peddler’s Village sand sculptures and ice sculptures. If the 202 Property could have a common area that featured an exhibit, similar to that and we could bring the community and multiple ages together, it would be nice to bring some artistic events like this into Solebury year-round. The discussion of a water feature had him thinking about year-round use of a pond connected to the creek as a focal point for children as well.

**VII. Adjournment**

The work session adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Erika Canterbury

**Vision:**

To develop the 202 Solebury Property into a vibrant and complimentary addition to the existing Solebury Park and Recreation Program to enrich the lives of all township citizens.

**Mission:**

To create a space that embraces the principles of inclusivity, demonstrates multi-use design, celebrates Solebury's cultural heritage, and creates opportunities for building community. These principles will be explored in partnership with the community and will use sustainable practices where practical and feasible.

**4 Principles****Inclusive Design**

*The property will be designed:*

- To consider a wide range of age groups
- To accommodate all abilities and is ADA accessible
- To consider cultures and lifestyles in our community
- To enhance the existing habitat and diverse landscape using sustainable practices
- To be pet-friendly

**Smart/Sustainable Design**

*The property will be designed:*

- To incorporate smart and sustainable features to allow for multi-use and multi-age participation.
- To enhance and protect the already existing diverse natural conditions.
- To encourage year-round usage

**Solebury Culture**

*The property will be designed:*

- To promote the River Township culture and become an important element in connecting the 202 trail between the Delaware River and Aquetong Spring Park
- To enhance the already existing art culture and heritage of Solebury by encouraging art expression on the property
- To support the "outdoor and nature" culture of Solebury as an integral part of the property
- To support the Solebury landscape by preserving and protecting natural space

**Building Community**

*The property will be designed:*

- To engage the community in the design and development through alliances with schools, non-profits, and other key stakeholders
- To encourage activity which promotes community interaction and fosters physical and mental well-being for the community
- To enhance and broadcast the Solebury experience making the property inviting to visitors and possible new residents looking at joining our community.

# 202 PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ▶ Visit to three local Parks:
  - ▶ Karl Stirner Arts Trail, Easton
  - ▶ Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve, New Britain;
  - ▶ Dixon Meadow Preserve, Whitemarsh Township
- ▶ Interesting ideas from the internet





# Karl Stirner Arts Trail mixes art with nature



- Urban park in Easton
- 1.75 mile trail winding along the Bushkill Creek
- Narrow park with a single path
- Traversing the park provides exposure to different art forms (murals, statues, etc.)
- Park experience enhanced by the creek





## Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve has open space with some nature education



- Located in New Britain
- 28.76 acres along the Neshaminy Creek
- Quiet road next to industrial park
- Mostly passive park for walking, fishing, exercising pets

# Dixon Meadow Preserve includes a boardwalk and focuses on ecological preservation

- Whitemarsh Township
- 14 Acres
- Repurposed farmland beginning 2014
- Adjacent to busy road
- Boardwalk is ~0.7 miles



# Bringing fun and nature together



More like this ▼

More like this ▼





**COOL SEATING  
AREAS**



**NATURE AND PLAY**





**Ideas focused on fun**

***Urban  
multiuse  
areas***





# Engaging the community with outdoor games

- Potential to appeal to more age groups by bringing in a variety of games requiring different skills and interests
- Games could reflect the interests of the community.